(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to enhance tea production in this area and to contain the menace of floods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Estimated production of tea in Cachar area of Assam during 1993 has been 42.44 million kilograms as compared to 43.69 million kilograms during 1992. Production tea in this area during 1993 has been affected due to problems of floods.

(b) In order to increase production of tea, Tea Board provides financial assistance to the tea growers including growers in Cachar area under various developmental schemes of the Board, Tea industry have represented to the Govt. of Assam to take steps to control menace of floods?

Scheme to Improve Productivity of Tobacco

6310. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a scheme to improve per acre productivity of tobacco yeilds in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) which organisation is monitoring and implementing such a programme; and

(c) the results achieved in 1993-94 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board is implementing the scheme for improving the productivity of POV tobacco with technical assistance of Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRT). Rajahmundry.

(c) The average yiald of FCV tobocco in A.P. was 1082 kgs|Hectare in 1993-94.

Research on Tobacco Cultivation

6311. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the relevant bodies of the Ministry dealing with tobacco research have done any work on sprinkler or drip irrigation system on higher productivity yields for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the organisations Institutes which conducted these experiments;

(c) the results obtained from such research work;

(d) whether Government propose to extend the system of scientific irrigation in tobacco cultivation in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether it is a fact that tobacco farmers have not been involved by Government is sorting out their problems; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry (under Ministry of Agriculture) has done some work on the subject.

(c) In the case of sprinkler irrigation experiments carried out by the Institute showed water economy upto 17 per cent as compared to furrow irrigation. Similarly, in experiments undertaken with drip irrigation significantly faster growth rate was observed during the vegetative growth phase. Higher yields of green and cured leaf were obtained. Water economy was also observed upto 15 per cent as compared to furrow irrigation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.